



THE KEYNOTER



“After TR: The Election of 1908”

“He’s Pregnant!” • Banking on Bryan • “Let the People Rule”
The Twilight Zone • “Chinese Must Go!” • The Kitchen Debate



THE APIC KEYNOTER

Published Quarterly

Volume 2002, Number 3

Fall 2002

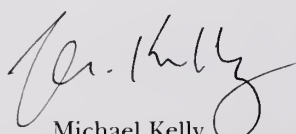
Editor's Message

The Campaign of 1908 may not be the most interesting in terms of personalities and politics but it must surely be a highlight in terms of the quality of campaign material. That campaign produced a rich array of items, most particularly buttons and postcards. Button manufacturing was at full tilt with great quality in manufacturing blending with tremendous graphic skill. Photography had matured so that the pictures were clear and precise while colorful designs abounded. Postcards had reached wide popularity and politics themes were easy to find. In this issue we could only give you a taste of the wealth of such material, focusing on some very interesting specific pieces.

While William Howard Taft doesn't appear on many lists of favorite presidents, he nonetheless founded a dynasty that tops anything America has seen. Although they may not have drawn the attention given to the Adams, Kennedys and Bushes, the Tafts of Ohio have produced a major leader in each generation. President Taft's son was Senate Majority Leader Robert Taft. His son was U.S. Senator Bob Taft, Jr., whose son is the current governor of Ohio, Gov. Bob Taft. There have been plenty of other Tafts in government and elective service as well. California's Browns (father Gov. Pat Brown, brother Gov. Jerry Brown and sister State Treasurer and almost-governor Kathleen Brown) have done pretty well for just two generations, but the Taft still have the longest streak.

ERRATA

On page 3 the Summer 2002 issue, the 1988 Prohibition Party nominees were incorrectly listed as Earl Dodge and Warren Martin. The 1988 Prohibition ticket was actually Earl Dodge and George Ormsby. The button ticket was of the Dodge/Ormsby ticket. Thanks to James Hedges (APIC #14405) of the Partisan Prohibition Historical Society for catching the mistake. Check out his website at www.prohibitionists.org.


Michael Kelly
Editor

FEATURES:

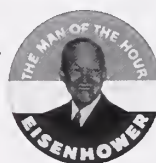
The Election of 1908.....	Page 3
After TR	Page 4
1908 Hopefuls	Page 9
Banking on Bryan	Page 10
Let the People Rule.....	Page 12
Fitzgerald for President.....	Page 13
Bill Bryan and "Alfalfa Bill"	Page 14
The Twilight Zone	Page 15
"God Knows"	Page 15
"He's Pregnant!" Taft and DePew.....	Page 16
"Chinese Must Go!"	Page 20
FDR Clocks: Part II	Page 24

DEPARTMENTS:

APIC Hall of Fame.....	Page 17
Collecting History: Paster Ballots and the Kitchen Debate	Page 18

Illustrations: The editor wishes to thank the following for providing illustrations for this issue: Al Anderson, Steve Baxley, Stephen Cresswell, Don R. Dickson, John Dunning, Roger Fischer, John Foster, Robert Fratkin, Tom French, David and Janice Frent, John Gingerich, Harvey Goldberg, Al Salter, Tom Slater, Tom Tedford, and Ed Sullivan.

Covers: Front: Two postcards and two buttons from the 1908 campaign. **Back:** Color postcard showing Uncle Sam wearing Bryan and Taft buttons.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE

A look at the Eisenhower-Stevenson battle of fifty years ago, an interview with Lester Maddox and much more.

All correspondence about content should be addressed to:

Editor

Michael Kelly
1901 Montclair Avenue
Flint, MI 48503
[Email: mkelly@mcc.edu]

All correspondence about mailing and copies should be addressed to:

Publisher

Joe Hayes
P.O. Box 1149
Cibolo, TX 78108
[Email: apic@texas.net]

Associate Editor

Robert Fratkin

Contributing Editors

Steve Baxley
Stephen Cresswell
David Frent

Contributors

Steve Baxley
Don R. Dickson
Robert Fratkin
Harvey Goldberg
Al Salter
Tom Tedford

Editorial Board

Robert Fratkin
Harvey Goldberg
Michael Kelly
Brian Krapf
Edmund Sullivan

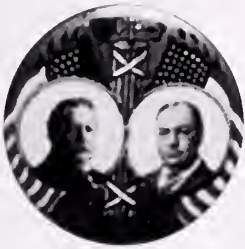
Support Services

Germaine Broussard
Kay Sampson Kelly

APIC seeks to encourage and support the study and preservation of original materials issuing from and relating to political campaigns of the United States of America and to bring its members fuller appreciation and deeper understanding of the candidates and issues that form our political heritage.

©2002 APIC Texas 78108
Printed in USA
by Lebco Graphics

THE ELECTION OF 1908



REPUBLICAN PARTY
(Taft and Sherman)
7,678,908
(321)



SOCIALIST PARTY
(Debs and Hanford)
420,793



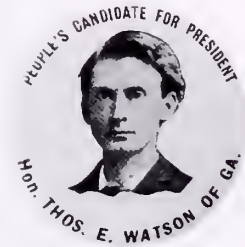
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
(Bryan and Kern)
6,409,104
(162)



PROHIBITION PARTY
(Chafin and Watkins)
253,840



INDEPENDENCE PARTY
(Hisgen and Graves)
82,872



PEOPLE'S PARTY
(Watson and Williams)
29,100



SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY
(Gillhaus and Munro)
13,825





After TR: The Campaign of 1908

by Harvey Goldberg



Theodore Roosevelt felt that his successor should be someone of his own choosing. The first to come to mind was Elihu Root, TR's Secretary of State. Though he saw an immaculate statesman in the man, he also saw limitations. Root had close contacts to Wall Street. His age (63) might also be a factor, as might his temperament. So after much deliberation, Roosevelt settled on his Secretary of War, William Howard Taft.

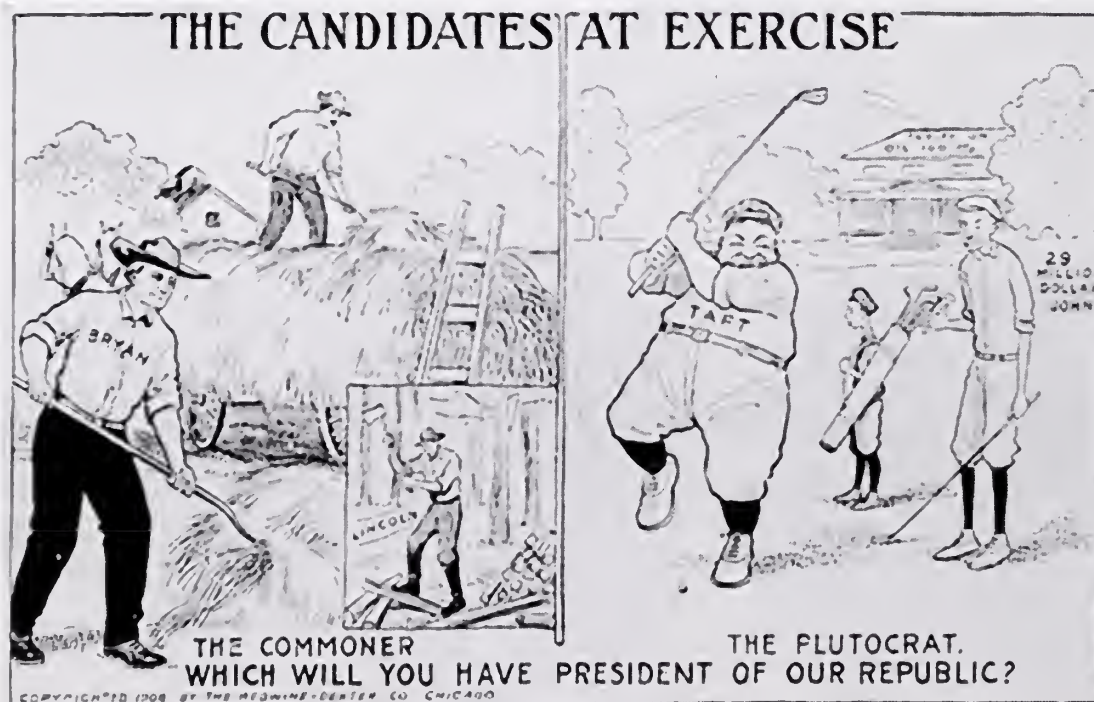
Taft's resume was impressive. He was a Yale graduate, had served as a judge in Cincinnati, Solicitor General of the United States, Federal Circuit judge, head of the U.S. Philippine Commission, and first civil governor of the Philippines prior to entering the Roosevelt cabinet. Personally, Taft saw himself as a Supreme Court Justice, and TR would have been glad to oblige. But Taft's family pressured him toward the White House.

Roosevelt, meanwhile, was concerned by third-term activities. He had announced in 1904 his intention to step down at the end of his term. To support his intent, he gave Taft both his blessings and his active support. TR used the power of the Oval Office and his administration to push the nomination of William Howard Taft. The only opposition came from a group of favorite sons: Gov. Charles Evans Hughes of New York, Sen. Philander Knox of Pennsylvania, Speaker Joe Cannon of Illinois, Vice President Charles Fairbanks of Indiana, and Senator Robert LaFollette of Wisconsin.

The GOP met in Chicago for its National Convention, on June 16, 1908. Prior to opening, the National Committee settled some two hundred twenty contested delegate seats, most of which were from Southern states. Taft delegates were seated over others in most of these seats. The platform was drawn up in advance to suit both Roosevelt and Taft.

The balloting, which began on the third day of the convention, saw an attempt to stampede the convention for Roosevelt. But the Taft forces were in control, thanks to the efforts of TR himself. In spite of the noise and uproar, the roll call proceeded and the nomination was secured; Taft had 702 votes, followed by Knox (68), Hughes (67), Cannon (58), Fairbanks (40), LaFollette (25), Ohio Sen. Joe Foraker (16) and Roosevelt (3). The Vice Presidential nomination went to Congressman James Sherman of New York, who won on a single ballot with 816 votes.

Two weeks after the GOP convention, Democrats met in Denver, Colorado. They re-nominated William Jennings Bryan. The disastrous 1904 defeat of Alton B. Parker had pushed the party back toward Bryan. A progressive surge in the Western states, along with a lack of other candidates, made Bryan a seemingly logical choice. A few potential challengers appeared, but lacked strong support: Gov. John A. Johnson of Minnesota and Judge George Gray of Delaware. Grover Cleveland warned that a Bryan nomination would be followed by another defeat in November, but his death prior



1908



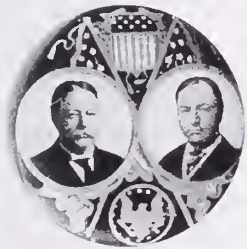
TIFFIN
Bryan Club



T-ake
A-dvice
F-rom
T-eddy



Above: Taft would never have even run for President if Teddy Roosevelt hadn't hand-picked him as his successor. Much Taft material from 1908 reflects that political reality. Below: 1908 may have been the high point of button production. Hundreds of high-quality buttons exist with wonderful graphics.



This postcard promotes the Corn Palace at Mitchell, South Dakota.

to the convention further diminished any active opposition.

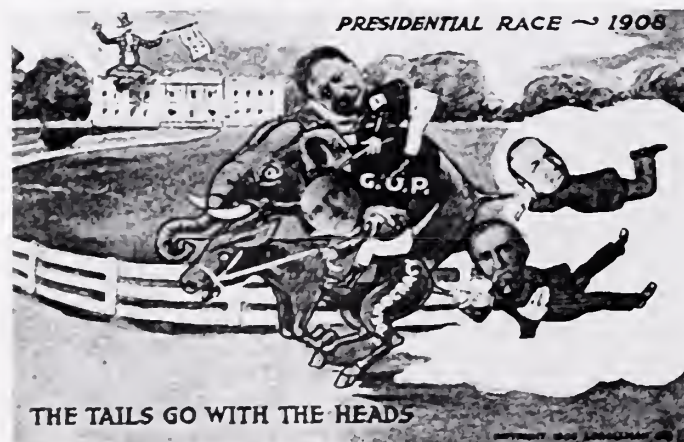
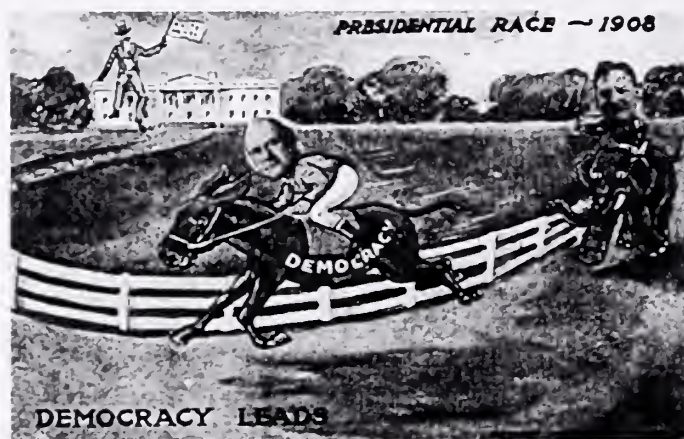
The Denver convention was an entertaining event for the delegates. The Mile High City, hosting its first National Convention, offered cowboys, Indians, snow-topped mountains, and other entertainment – but no contest for the nomination. All had been pre-determined with delegates well-rehearsed in their roles. The Democratic platform was not unlike a Bryan campaign speech, attacking the Republicans for abusing their authority and power during Roosevelt's term. The selected issue became "Shall the people rule?"

Bryan, Johnson, and Gray were the only names offered for nomination. On the first – and only – ballot, Bryan won 888 1/2 votes to Gray's 59 1/2 and Johnson's 46. John W. Kern of Indiana, a strong Bryan supporter, was nominated for Vice President without opposition.

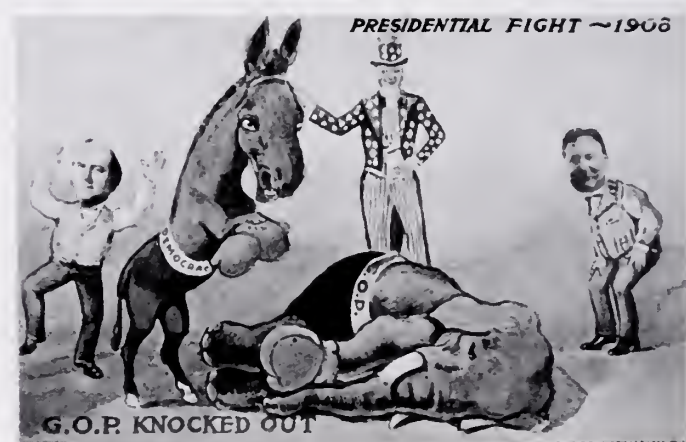
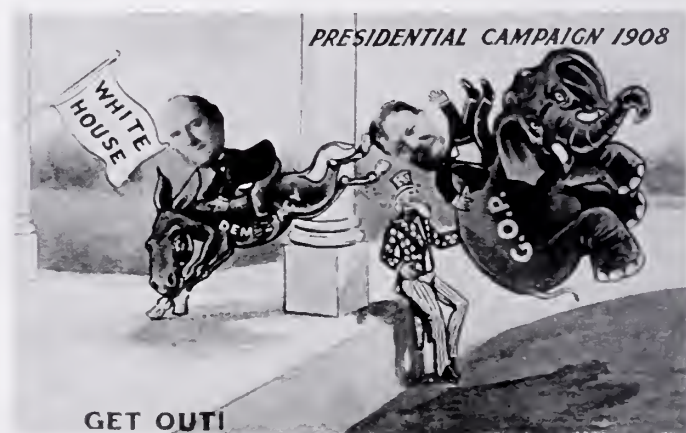
There followed the usual grouping of minor parties,

along with a new one. The Socialists once again nominated Eugene V. Debs in hopes of gaining voter strength as they had four years earlier. The Socialist Labor party chose August Gillhaus and the Prohibition Party nominated Eugene Chafin. The Populist Party was fading fast, but added Tom Watson to the mix. The new addition was the Independence Party, backed by William Randolph Hearst, who offered Thomas Hisgen as its standard bearer.

The Republicans began slowly. Taft wanted a front-porch campaign like McKinley, but he was convinced that the only way to counteract Bryan was to make campaign appearances. When he finally went on the road in September, Taft seemed to be neck and neck with Bryan. Theodore Roosevelt and Wm. Jennings Bryan became actively involved with each other in a controversy about campaign contributions. Aside from this interjection, the campaign was rather dull.



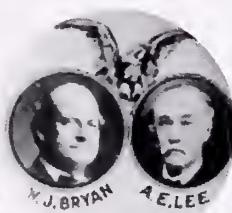
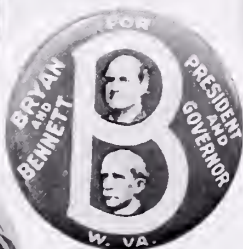
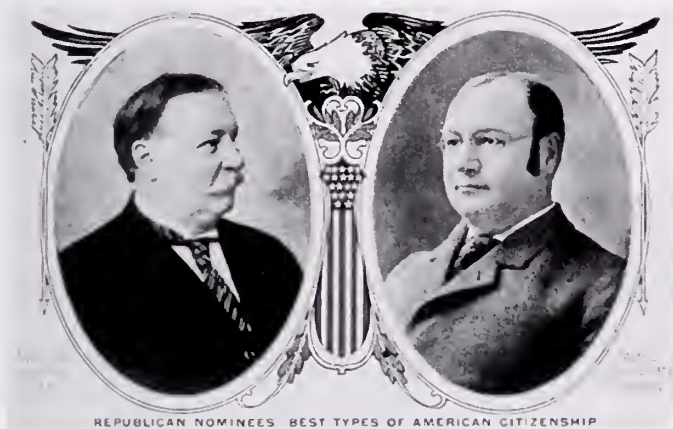
This series of cartoon postcards seems to lean toward the Democrats. The cartoon buttons show Taft leaving the GOP convention in Chicago while Bryan leaves from the Democratic convention in Denver. Both are headed to Washington, DC.



Bryan received limited support from labor groups, but there was no broad swing toward the Democrats. TR's liberalism and personal popularity cut deeply into Bryan's support out West. The large Republican support in the East was still present as it had been four years earlier. William Jennings Bryan was no longer the flamboyant "Boy Orator of the Platte" - he was just a middle-aged politician whose ideas had become old hat.

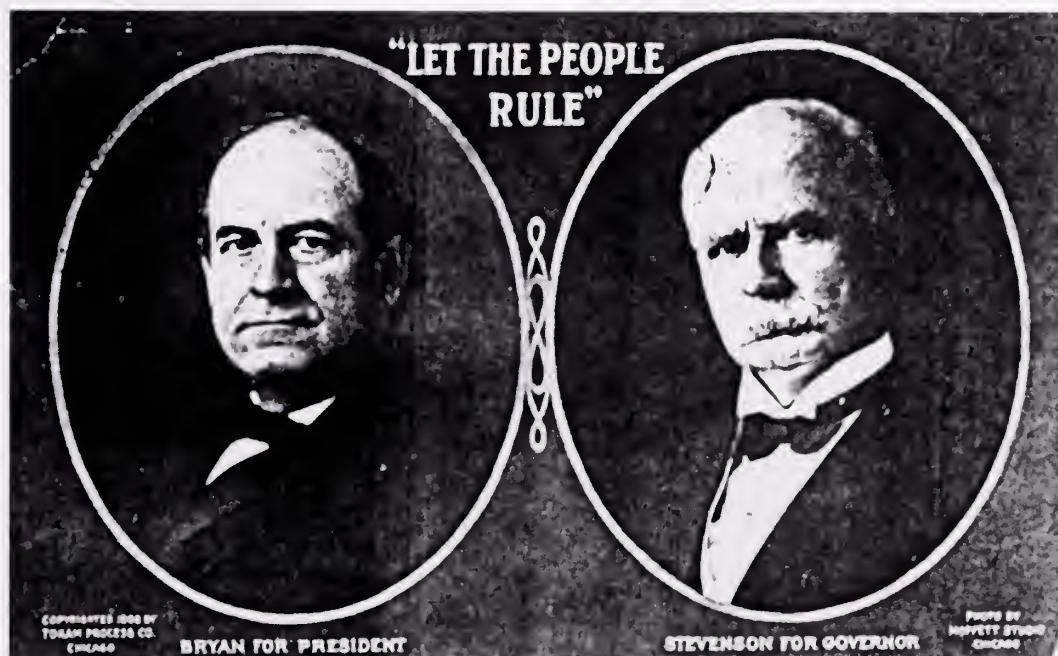
On November 3, 1908, William Howard Taft was elected our 27th President. He defeated Bryan by 1 1/4 million votes out of 14 million cast and 321 Electoral votes to 162.

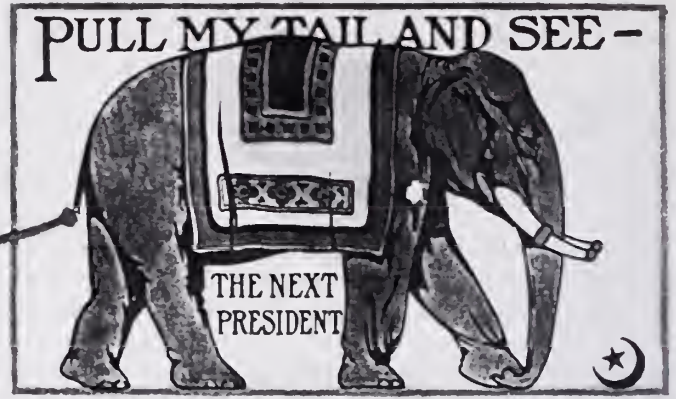
Democrats gathered more votes than they had for Parker in 1904, but not enough to win. Socialists Debs & Hanford pulled 420,793 votes; Prohibition nominees Chafin & Watkins had 253,840 votes; Independence Party candidates Hisgen & Graves received 82,872 votes; Watson & Williams - the Populist Party candidates - received 29,100 votes; Socialist Labor nominees Gillhaus & Munro had 13,825 votes. Another ticket, the United Christians, led by Daniel Turney & Lorenzo Coffin, managed only 400 votes.★



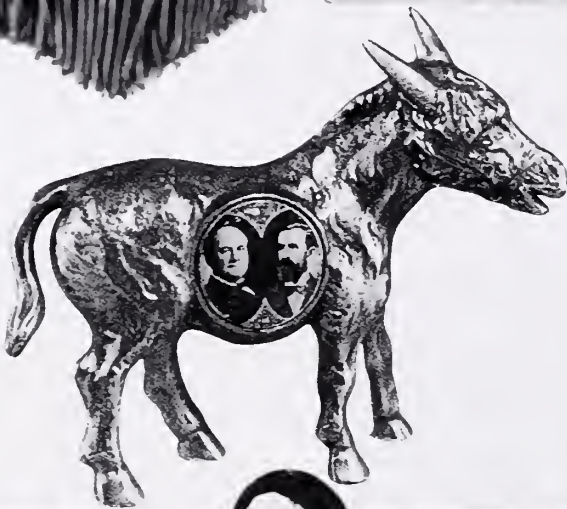
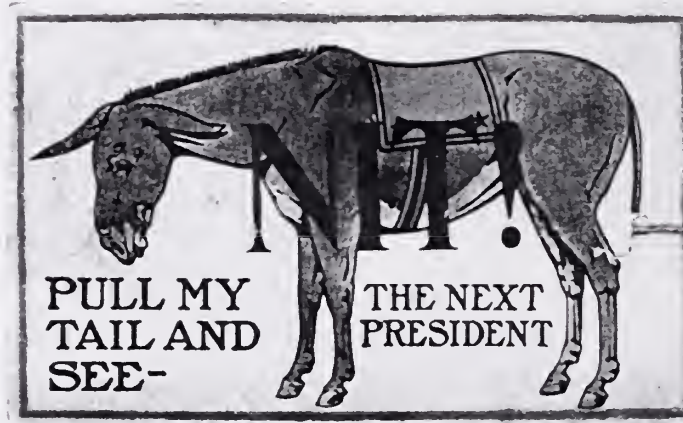
Above and below: Campaign postcards from Illinois.

This page pictures a few nice coattail items. Of particular interest is the Bryan/Stevenson jugate postcard from Illinois. Stevenson had been Bryan's VP running mate in 1900 and then ran for Governor of Illinois in 1908. The button below is a classic from 1896.





The 1908 campaign had plenty of fun items to liven up political debates, reflecting the rising level of American technical skill.





It's Never That Easy: Hopefuls in 1908.

by Michael Kelly



TR could have been re-nominated and re-elected easily in 1908. He would come to regret giving up the White House.

With the benefit of hindsight, both Taft and Bryan looked like sure bets for their party's nomination. When it came to the first convention ballot, both men ran more than 10-to-1 ahead of the runner-up. But it's never that easy.

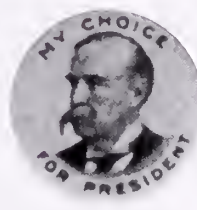
The conventions in 1908 confirmed the results of long struggles. President Theodore Roosevelt gained total control of the GOP and handed Taft the nomination on a silver platter, but not before other hopefuls gave it a shot. Taft's chief rival was Pennsylvania's Philander Chase Knox, who had built a fortune as a corporation lawyer before becoming McKinley's Attorney General. TR kept him on and Knox led the battle against the trusts, most famously the Northern Securities Company. He left the cabinet to enter the U.S. Senate only to resign after five years to become Secretary of State under President Taft. Knox would return to the Senate in 1917.

Bryan dominated the Democratic convention as Parker's 1904 loss to TR had disheartened the Grover Cleveland Gold Democrats. Bryan's main challenge came from Minnesota Gov. John A. Johnson. Johnson was publisher of the *St. Peter Herald* and served as a captain in the Minnesota National Guard. He was elected state senator in 1896 and governor in 1904. The popular Johnson was easily reelected in 1906 and 1908 and won wide national recognition. He was considered the most likely prospect for the 1912 Democratic presidential nomination (a nomination that would turn out to be particularly valuable) when he unexpectedly died on September 21st, 1909.

Both Taft and Bryan won on the first ballot by large margins, but don't let the numbers fool you. Neither victory came as easily as they looked, which is why the study of hopefuls is such fun. Think of recent campaigns of hopefuls like John McCain, Paul Tsongas or Gary Hart. 1908's battles are well worth looking into.★



FAIRBANKS



Some hopeful items from 1908. The stalwart gentleman with the sterling mustache is George Gray of Delaware.



Delegates from Pennsylvania and Indiana had their own ideas about the GOP nomination.



Banking on Bryan in 1908

by Steve Baxley

One of the issues that William Jennings Bryan attempted to exploit in 1908 was a plan for guaranteed bank deposits. Bryan's plan was to tax deposits to set up a guaranteed fund. All national banks would have to join the plan. It would also be available to any state banks that wished to join.

Such a law was in effect in Oklahoma and because many potential voters in Kansas were crossing state lines to make their deposits in Oklahoma. On August 27, 1908, Bryan delivered a speech on the subject in Topeka, Kansas. It is interesting that the political button pictured was manufactured by Midland Novelty Company of Shenandoah, Iowa, another Midwestern state that was certainly aware of Oklahoma's deposit plan.

In his speech, Bryan discussed the banking situation in Oklahoma and Kansas. "While the deposits were increasing in the guaranteed banks of Oklahoma, they were falling in the State banks and trust companies of Kansas—the decrease being \$1,153,026.27 between March 31 and June 13 (1908)," he said.

"No amount of criticism of the timid depositor can change the facts; the people who deposit money want more security than the laws at present give them. They will change banks to get more security, and, if necessary, they will send their money to another state."

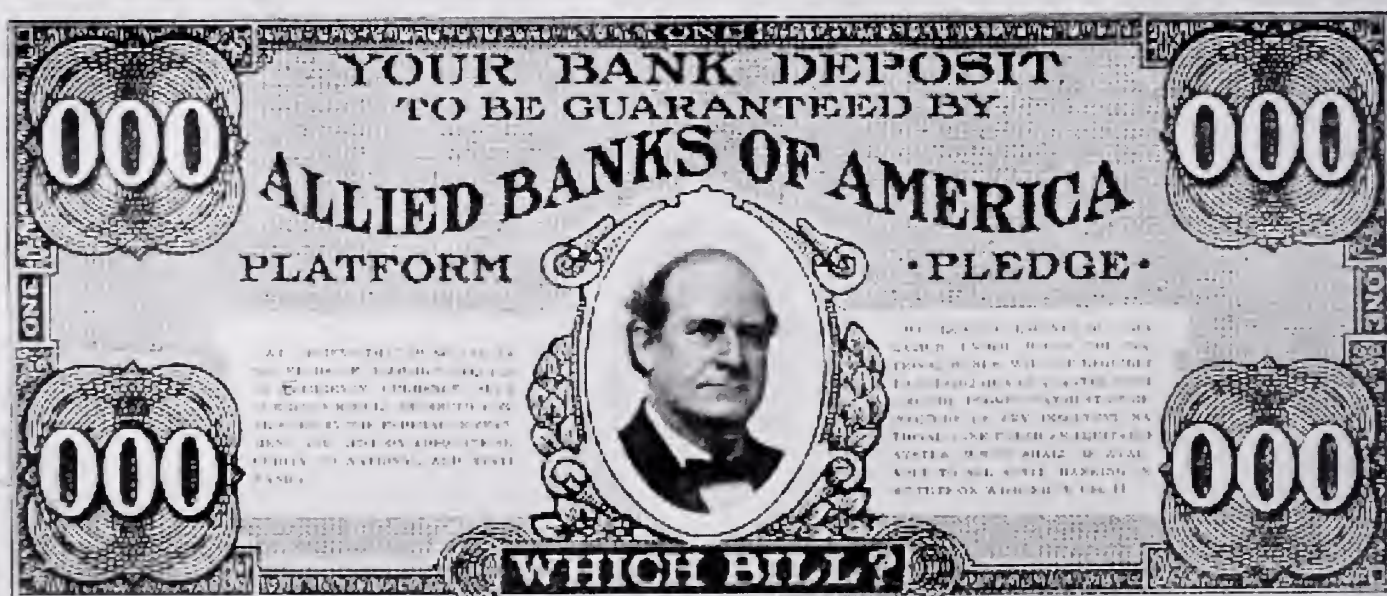
The Democratic Party included the following plank in their 1908 platform:

"We pledge ourselves to legislation by which the national banks shall be required to establish a guaranty fund for the prompt payment of the depositors of any insolvent national bank, under an equitable system which shall be available to all state banking institutions wishing to use it."

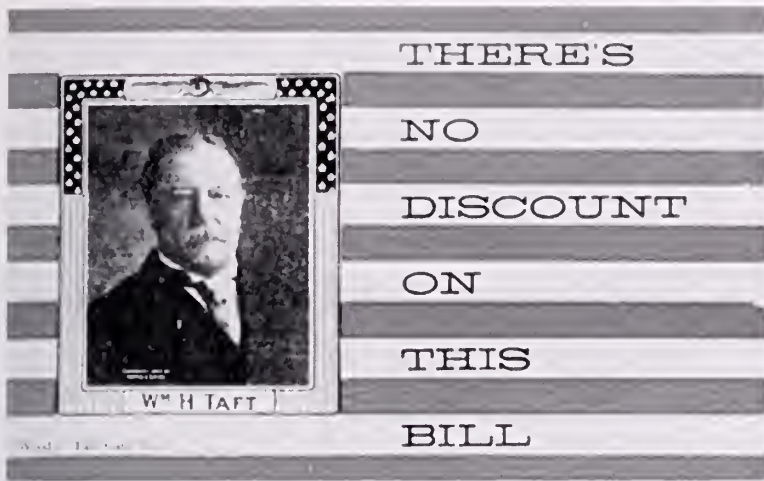
Taft's response to the plan was as follows:

"How state banks can be included in such a scheme [enforced insurance to raise a fund to pay the depositors of any bank that fails] under the Constitution is left in the twilight zone of state rights and federalism so frequently dimming the meaning and purpose of the promises of the platform. If they come in under such a system, they must necessarily be brought within the closest national control, and so they must really cease to be state banks and become national banks."

Bryan would lose the election and his plan was not to be applied nationally. Deposits in federal banks are now insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), which was incorporated during Franklin Roosevelt's administration.★



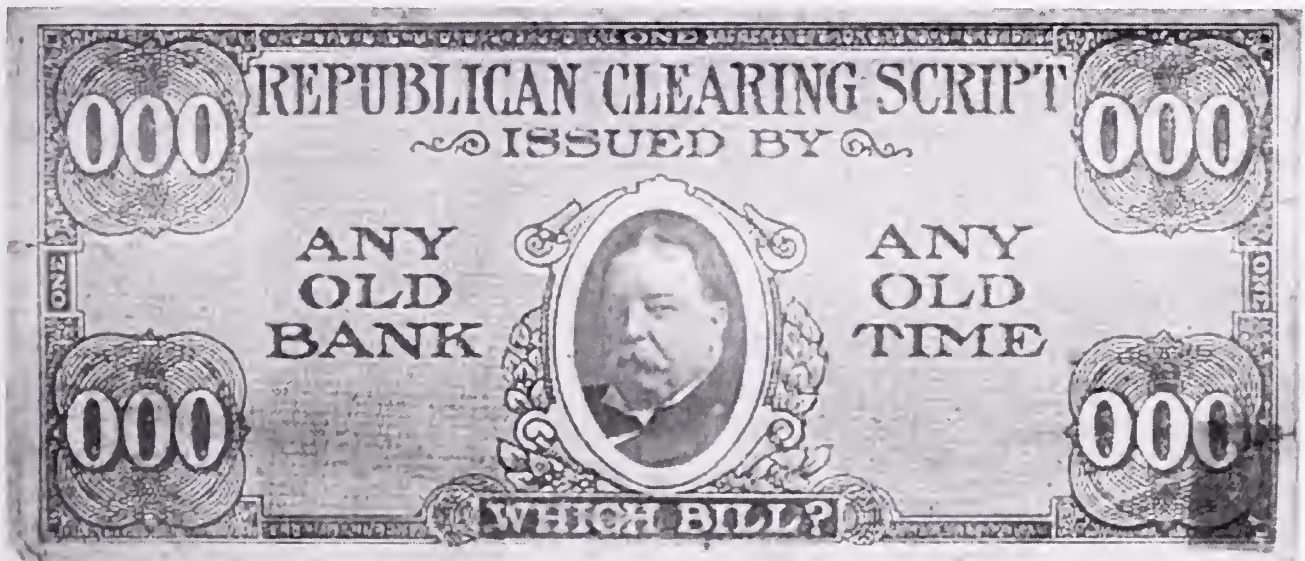
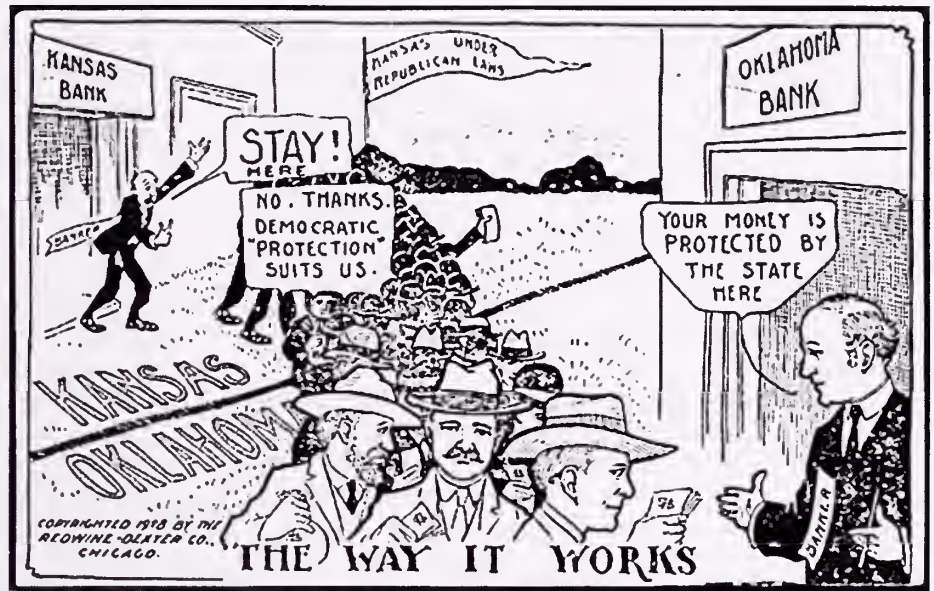
"Which Bill?" This campaign currency from 1908 highlights the Democratic stand on banking laws. The Bryan side pledges to follow the Democratic platform and require national banks to create a guaranty fund. The Taft side warns the reader about Taft's banking policy. Put your money in "Any Old Bank Any Old Time" and possibly lose your deposit.



Here's a rare jugate (shown enlarged) showing Bryan with North Carolina's William Walton Kitchin. Kitchin was elected governor in 1908 and served from 1909 to 1913.



This unusual Taft button wasn't an election item. It celebrates President Taft's visit to the Appalachian Exposition in Tennessee. William J. Oliver was the president of the exposition.



The banking issue was still alive after the campaign. In his inaugural address, President Taft stated, "One of the reforms to be carried out during the incoming administration is a change of our monetary and banking laws, so as to secure greater elasticity in the forms of currency available for trade and to prevent the limitations of law from operating to increase the embarrassment of a financial panic."



Should Democracy “Let the People Rule” in Oklahoma?

by Steve Baxley

Political campaign items do not always provide a picture or a name of a candidate, often making it difficult to determine when an item was actually used. Such is the case with the “Democracy: Let the People Rule” button. The button shows a rising sun in the distance as an Indian and a white man shake hands, with a settlement on the left and an Indian village on the right. This item is usually attributed to William Jennings Bryan’s 1908 presidential campaign. But is it from 1908? This article argues that the button was used in the ratification election that occurred on September 17, 1907 in Oklahoma.

The state of Oklahoma was once two territories: the Indian Territory and the Oklahoma Territory. In those days, Republicans dominated both areas. On March 4, 1906, the tribal government of the Five Civilized Tribes was terminated. Indians and whites in Indian Territory were opposed to a union with the Oklahoma Territory into one state.

A group of white and Indian delegates assembled on September 5, 1906 and proposed a state called Sequoyah, comprised of the Indian Territory. They passed a very progressive constitution. Congress did not approve statehood, but it did pass an Enabling Act that would eventually lead to Oklahoma statehood.

An election of delegates to a state constitutional convention was held on November 4, 1906. While the Republican Party had dominated both territories for many years, a coalition of reformers was rising to challenge the Republicans, who were largely dependent on patronage to stay in power. The Democrats exploited the fact that Henry E. Asp, nominated by the Republicans as a delegate to the constitutional convention, was an attorney for the Santa Fe Railroad.

Increasing prices, lack of product safety, and tax-dodging corporations made reform a hot ticket. The progressive Democratic organization had been formed during the Sequoyah Movement and many of the men who wrote reforms into the proposed constitution for Sequoyah statehood were again prepared to write the constitution for Oklahoma statehood. The 1906 state Democratic Platform contained the following plank:

“We favor the removal of all restrictions upon Indian Allotments except the Homestead, and a just and reasonable limitation upon the amount of said lands to be purchased by an individual to the end that these lands may become the homes of the actual farmer and settler. We are opposed to these lands falling into the hands of corporations, speculators and grafters.”

The Democrats were offering what they felt was an equitable and just alternative to the speculative graft and land grabbing by corporations. The Democrats sent twice as many delegates to the 1906 constitutional convention as the Republicans and the result was a very progressive constitution. An election was held to ratify the Oklahoma constitution on September 17, 1907. The Republicans opposed the constitution and picked Frank Franz as their candidate for Governor at a state nominating convention.

The Democrats held a primary and nominated Charles N. Haskell. The Democrats ran on the necessity of ratifying the constitution, portraying their Republican opponents as carpetbaggers working with outside interests for profit and greed. The constitution was not progressive in race relations, however. Race baiting was commonplace.

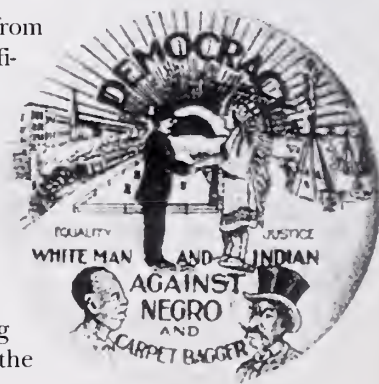
Further evidence that the “Democracy: Let the People Rule” celluloid button can be attributed to the Oklahoma 1907 ratification election is a similar button pictured below described by Richard Fritz in his book, *Price Guide to Political Memorabilia*, as “a recently discovered cartoon pinback: ‘Democracy/White Man and Indian Against Negro and Carpetbagger.’” The white man and carpetbagger reference illustrates cooperation between white man and Indian in the Sequoyah Movement while the anti-black and carpetbagger reference illustrates the Democracy’s approval of Jim Crow laws and accusation that the Republicans were carpetbaggers.

William Jennings Bryan toured the state before the 1907 ratification election and spoke to two large crowds in Oklahoma City less than two weeks before the election. He said it was a better constitution than the Constitution of the United States. Secretary of War William Howard Taft appeared in the state and hurt the Republican cause by calling the constitution, “a spurious combination of Bourbonism and despotism flavored with Socialism.”

On September 17, 1907, Oklahoma voters accepted the work of their convention with a vote of 180,333 for ratification and 73,059 opposed. Charles N. Haskell was elected governor over Frank Frantz. Four of the five members elected to Congress were Democrats and were elected by substantial majorities. Most of the other officers of the new state and county governments were Democrats.

“Let the People Rule” was a campaign slogan for the Democrats in 1908, but this slogan was also a very appropriate slogan for the 1907 Oklahoma ratification election and the other slogans and cartoon seem to fit the 1907 Oklahoma Constitution Ratification election as well. The existence of the button described in Fritz’s book would seem to favor attribution to the 1907 election rather than to the 1908 Bryan campaign for President in 1908.

This does not take away from the item’s historical significance. The 1907 Oklahoma Constitution Ratification Election showed the Democratic Party that appealing to issues important to the voters could make significant changes in political power. It was also a major turning point in the history of the Progressive Movement.★





A Minor Party Hopeful from 1908: Fitzgerald for President

by Steve Baxley

When William Randolph Hearst lost the Democratic presidential nomination to Alton B. Parker in 1904, he decided it was time to start a new third party. Judge Samuel Seabury was head of a group called the Municipal Ownership League. Seabury favored public ownership of utilities, an issue Hearst had long supported. The William Randolph Hearst League joined with the Municipal Ownership League to create the Independence League, which later became the Independence Party.

The new party met on July 27, 1908, at Orchestra Hall in Chicago. Many of the delegate seats were filled by Hearst employees who had been given train rides to the event. Thomas L. Hisgen of Massachusetts was nominated. Hisgen was acceptable to Hearst because Hisgen had fought a personal battle with the Standard Oil Company and survived financially. Hisgen and his three brothers ran an axle grease company that Standard Oil had tried to buy out. Hisgen refused and even enlarged his sales despite price-cutting tactics by Standard Oil. Hisgen had been the Independence League's candidate for Governor of Massachusetts in 1907.

But Hisgen was not unopposed for the new party's presidential nomination, a fact that generated a rare minor party hopeful button. Another candidate with some support at the convention was Michael A.

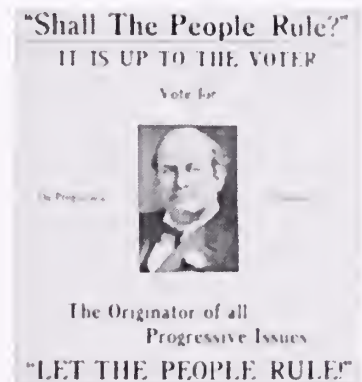
Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald was one of the founders of the National Letter Carriers Association and later its President. He was defeated in runs for the U.S. House of Representatives in 1906 and 1912. The rare button shown was used in his hopeful campaign. For southern support, John Temple Graves of Georgia was nominated for Vice President with Hisgen. Once the editor of *The Atlanta Georgian*, Graves was now employed by Hearst. Graves worked on the Hearst newspaper, the *New York American*.

The 1908 Independence Party platform called for control of monopolies, an 8-hour day, federal operation of railroads, creation of a Department of Labor, popular election of senators, and a strong Navy. On September 15, 1908, Hearst read letters at an Independence Party rally that he hoped would cause a firestorm in the campaign. The letters were written from John D. Archbold, President of Standard Oil, to members of Congress. Republican Senator Joseph Foraker and Republican Congressman Joseph C. Sibley were named for receiving favors from Standard Oil. To William Jennings Bryan's dismay, his treasurer, Governor Charles N. Haskell of Oklahoma, was also named in the letters. Haskell resigned as Bryan's treasurer. Nonetheless, the Independence Party made a poor showing in 1908 and even with his vast resources, Hearst was unable to make it a viable third party.★



This certifies that . . . I . . . do hereby . . . State of . . . believe, that if the people would vote their own . . . they must pay the expense of electing their own public servants. Millions of dollars . . . and spend interests to elect elections are never open except in relation to . . . to favor of government that give special privilege to the favored few and . . . oppress the many. You have given . . . dollars without any . . . in return except for . . . government in the interest of the whole people.

Wm. Howard Taft
Michael A. Fitzgerald
Charles N. Haskell



"Let the People Rule!" was a popular Democratic slogan in 1908. However, it turned out that more of the people preferred to have Taft rule rather than Bryan.



Bill Bryan and Alfalfa Bill Murray in 1908?

by Don R. Dickson

About a year ago I bought a small basket filled with political buttons at a local Flea Market. Two Teddy Roosevelt buttons suffered from split celluloid and substantial foxing, while several common McKinley and Taft buttons were in fair to good condition. A 1907 "Democratic Ticket and the Constitution" by the St. Louis Button Company was in fine condition. It was the latter button that impelled me to buy this group of buttons without carefully inspecting everything in the basket.

When I returned home, I arranged all of the buttons in rows on a table, and then noticed a Bryan-Murray jugate dated 1908 and in excellent condition. It had been lying upside down at the bottom of the handful of buttons. I immediately recognized William Jennings Bryan, and decided that the man with a long mustache had to be William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray of Oklahoma. A brief examination of an Oklahoma history book confirmed this. The 1 1/2" jugate features a silver colored background and a filled back. It was manufactured by the St. Louis Button Company.

In an attempt to find out something about this button, I called Ted Hake, who said that he was unaware that such a button existed. I mentioned the button to Rex Stark, but he was not familiar with this jugate either. Finally I spoke to Jack Wilson. He indicated that he had heard of the button but had never seen one. He recommended that I confer with Pat Lenington of Norman, Oklahoma, a gentleman who kindly provided basic information regarding the story behind this rare button. Mr. Lenington stated that he knew of one other example in an Oklahoma collection. Then a search of available literature yielded a substantial amount of information regarding "Alfalfa Bill" Murray and the apparent situation which stimulated the production of this 1908 jugate.

Two possibilities immediately presented themselves. Did this button represent an actual attempt on the part of Murray to become a Vice Presidential candidate in 1908, or was Murray a coattail candidate for an Oklahoma office in this same year? I will briefly examine the available evidence before suggesting a probable conclusion.

William H. Murray was born at Toad Suck, Texas in 1869 (McReynolds 1954:359; Hollon 1968:382). His mother died when he was two, and a grandfather reared him. As a youth he worked in local cotton fields, and later he tried sales work, teaching, news reporting and finally, the practice of law. Only in the latter field was he successful.

Murray was 29 years old when he moved to Tishomingo, Oklahoma where he fell in love with and married Alice Hearrell, a girl with both Chickasaw and Choctaw Indian ancestry. Tishomingo was a rugged frontier town, and Bill Murray became the eighth lawyer in this capital of the Chickasaw Nation. Murray often took unpopular cases, once defending a gang of cattle thieves. He won a case for a small man named Gray, accused of assault with a deadly weapon (a fence rail), by posing the diminutive Gray with a huge rail in front of the supposed victim and pointing out that Gray could not even swing the rail let alone be a threat with it (McReynolds 1954:360).

Murray was active in drafting constitutions for both the pro-

posed state of Sequoyah (which was never recognized) and later for Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Constitutional Convention met at Guthrie between November 20, 1906 and March 15, 1907 and drafted a proposed state constitution. A copy of it was sent to President Theodore Roosevelt for his suggestions and TR recommended certain changes. In the meantime, William Jennings Bryan was called in to speak in favor of the new Constitution. After Roosevelt's criticisms had been dealt with, the President declared Oklahoma a state in the Union at 10:16 a.m. on November 16, 1907. Just before noon on this same day, Oklahoma's first governor, Charles Haskell, took the oath of office. He had been elected by popular vote on September 17, 1907 along with members of the Oklahoma Legislature and most local officials (Harlow 1955:323-325).

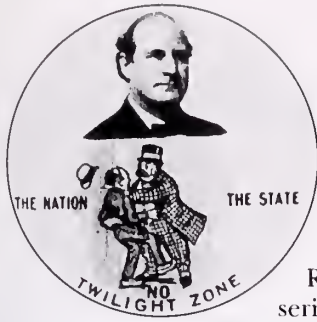
When the first Oklahoma Legislature convened in 1907, the 109-member House was presided over by newly selected speaker, William H. Murray (Foreman 1942:317). Since Oklahoma had elected its officials on September 17, 1907, the people did not vote again in 1908 for state and local officials. They did vote for representation in the U. S. House of Representatives, but the two senators from Oklahoma, Robert Owen and Thomas Gore, were selected by the Legislature (Dale and Aldrich 1972:322-323; Wright 1955:296). No evidence has been found that Murray ran for any Oklahoma office in 1908.

Being a loyal Democrat and an ardent supporter of William Jennings Bryan, Murray went to the Democratic Convention in Denver in 1908 as the lead delegate from Oklahoma. According to an article in the *Daily Oklahoman* on Sunday, March 6, 1938, some of Murray's friends groomed him as a vice-presidential hopeful on the Bryan ticket. In fact it was these friends who had the St. Louis Button Company make a few buttons promoting this combination. Of course, William Jennings Bryan chose John W. Kern as his running mate for 1908.

(continued on page 19)



"Alfalfa Bill" Murray ran for President as a hopeful at the 1932 Democratic convention, a full 24 years after his name was suggested for vice president in 1908. Neither effort found much support beyond his home state of Oklahoma.



The Twilight Zone in 1908

by Steve Baxley

Mention the term "Twilight Zone" today and people immediately think of Rod Serling's great television series that ran from 1959 to 1964. Serling defined the Twilight Zone as the middle ground between science and superstition. In 1908, the Twilight Zone had an entirely different meaning for William Jennings Bryan and the Democratic Party.

One of the most interesting political buttons from the 1908 campaign is one picturing Bryan with a cartoon of a fat, well-dressed man with his hands around another man's neck. On the left side of the cartoon, it says "The Nation," on the other side it says "The State." At the bottom are the words, "No Twilight Zone."

The topic of this button is mentioned in the 1908 Democratic Platform and was the subject of a speech that Bryan delivered in Peoria, Illinois, on September 9, 1908. Bryan began his speech by stressing the importance of the careful observance of the constitutional division of power between the state and the Nation. Bryan declared that the Democratic Party platform approved at Denver was in complete agreement with the ideals of its founder, Thomas Jefferson.

Bryan accused the Trusts of exerting an increasing influence in extending the authority of the central government. Bryan said, "They prefer the federal courts to the state courts, and employ every possible device to drag litigants before United States judges. They also prefer Congressional regulation to state regulation, and those interested in large corporations have for years been seeking federal incorporation." Bryan pledged that the Democratic Party would do everything in its power to stop the elimination of state lines.

"The predatory corporations have taken advantage of the dual character of our government and have tried to hide behind state rights when prosecuted in the federal courts, and behind interstate commerce of the Constitution when prosecuted in the state courts," Bryan said. "There is no twilight zone between the Nation and the State in which the exploiting interests can take refuge from both. There is no neutral ground where, beyond the jurisdiction of either sovereignty, the plunderers of the public can find a safe retreat. As long as a corporation confines its activities to the state in which it was created, it is subject to state regulation only; but as soon as it invades interstate commerce, it becomes amenable to federal laws as well as to the laws of the states in which it does business."

The Democrats were not the only ones to use this term, however. Bryan's opponent in 1908, William Howard Taft, used the same terminology when criticizing Bryan's plan for guaranteed bank deposits:

"How state banks can be included in such a scheme (Bryan's bank deposit scheme) under the Constitution is left in the twilight zone of state rights and federalism so frequently dimming the meaning and purpose of the promises of the platform. If they come in under such a system, they must necessarily be brought within the closest national control, and so they must really cease to be state banks and become national banks," Taft said.

To the voters of 1908, the "Twilight Zone" had nothing to do with TV re-runs, but described that middle ground between Nation and state, an undefined area where there seemed to be no law or government control from either level. Each candidate from each party used the term for his own political purposes. Little did they know that the term would become so deeply embedded in American popular culture.★

"God Knows"

The Socialists and an Anti-Taft Button

by Steve Baxley

Negative advertising is nothing new in American campaign history. Collectors are well aware of the many anti-opponent items that have been issued through the years. However, few are as negative as the 1908 "God Knows" anti-Taft button. The button shows a caricature of Taft in his glutinous glory confronted with a basic question on the economic depression of 1907: What is a man to do when out of work in a financial crisis and is starving? Taft's apathetic reply, "God Knows."

This button did not come from William Jennings Bryan and the Democrats. It had another source; the Socialist Party. The backpaper of this item tells us its origin: "Appeal to Reason, Girard, Kansas." In 1908, *Appeal to Reason* was the best-selling Socialist newspaper in the United States. Started by J. A. Wayland, *Appeal to Reason* was run by Fred Warren from 1904 to 1914. It was an unusual Socialist magazine in that it sold advertising to capitalists promoting their products.

During the 1908 campaign, *Appeal to Reason* and Eugene Victor Debs worked together for their mutual benefit. Debs made a

whistle-stop tour of the country on the Red Special train. Debs made six speeches a day for 65 days, from 31 August until the election. The train traveled through 33 states. Grace Brewer, a staff member of *Appeal to Reason*, arranged Debs' tour stops.

If one looks closely at the signature on the right-hand side of the button, one can see the cartoonist's signature. The artist was Ryan Walker, who in 1906 had made forty lectures across the country, which he illustrated with his cartoons.

The major political parties have used their material culture for many cruel negative attacks. In 1908, the Socialist newspaper from the heart of America in Girard, Kansas, spared no mercy on William Howard Taft.★



“He’s Pregnant!” (William Taft replies to Chauncey DePew)

by Michael Kelly

U.S. Senator Chauncey DePew had a long career in New York politics. Born in 1834, DePew graduated from Yale in 1856 and quickly jumped into politics. By 1861 he had been elected to the state assembly and in 1863 was elevated to Secretary of State of New York. President Andrew Johnson nominated DePew to be United States Minister to Japan and he was confirmed by the Senate but declined to accept the post. In 1872, DePew ran unsuccessfully for Lieutenant Governor and in 1881 was the unsuccessful Republican candidate for U.S. Senator. He made a fortune in the railroad industry and unsuccessfully sought the Republican presidential nomination in 1888. Chauncey DePew was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1899 and reelect-

ed in 1905, although he was defeated for reelection in 1910.

The story is told of a Republican Party dinner in New York City hosted by Chauncey DePew where the guest of honor was William Howard Taft. Taft's bulk (he weighed in at well over 300 pounds) was a frequent source of humor and DePew chose to tease that evening's guest speaker.

After giving Taft the expected introduction, DePew lingered at the podium while Taft arose and walked toward the podium, his large stomach prominently on view.

Suddenly, DePew turned to the audience and said, “He’s pregnant...” The crowd gasped and then DePew finished his sentence, “...with faith!”



There was a slight ripple of laughter and Taft drew closer to the podium. Again, DePew burst out, “He’s pregnant...” This time there was a bit more laughter. Again, DePew finished the sentence, “...with courage!”

By now, Taft was at the podium and DePew sat down. Taft looked over the crowd with the warm smile for which he was known. He stroked his large belly reflectively. “If, in fact, I am pregnant,” he began, “and it turns out to be a girl, I shall name her Faith.” The audience tittered.

“And,” Taft continued, “if, in fact, I am pregnant and it turns out to be a boy, I shall name him Courage.” The audience chuckled.

“But,” Taft concluded, “if, as I think, it turns out merely to be gas, I shall name him Chauncey DePew.” The audience roared.★



The 1908 campaign saw a surprising number of those tiny buttons collectors have dubbed “mighty mites.”

PROFILES IN DEED

The APIC Hall of Fame: John W. Barkley APIC #2

by Albert Salter

Members of the American Political Items Collectors accept 1945 as the founding year of the organization. But the impetus for APIC started with a letter John Barkley wrote to Monroe Ray five years earlier on October 14, 1940. Barkley, a partner in Squire, Sanders & Dempsey of Cleveland, was shown a newspaper clipping by Lawrence Towell, a former resident of Belmont, New York, and then a member of Barkley's law firm. The story reported a display of political buttons before the Allegany County, New York, Republican Committee by a certain Monroe Ray of Belmont.

On reading the article Barkley wrote to Ray, "You are the only other collector of whom I have ever heard." So the first communication on record between these two founders of APIC was the seed that generated today's 3000 active members.

John Barkley was born September 3, 1889 and died September 30, 1986 at the age of 97. He started collecting at the age of seven when his father campaigned for William McKinley. Barkley attended Alleghany College and Harvard Law School, and received his LLB from Western Reserve in 1914. He was named partner in Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in 1939, twelve years after joining the firm.

When Monroe Ray became the prime mover organizing political items collectors, Barkley declined Ray's invitation to accept the office of president of the group. It was Barkley's suggestion that either Joe Fuld or M. J. Hruska be named president and the other vice president, and that the offices of Secretary and Treasurer be combined and Monroe Ray be given that responsibility.

In 1972, Joe Brown hosted the APIC national in Milwaukee and asked Barkley to write a memo on the found-

ing of the organization. He and Monroe Ray were the only two surviving founders at that time. It was Barkley who identified Ray as the "APIC Sparkplug." For many years, Barkley quietly made personal donations to the APIC treasury to keep the organization viable.

In his only campaign for public office, John Barkley was elected mayor of Shaker Heights, Ohio, and served in that capacity from 1950 to 1955. His collection of memorabilia, which reflected his strong Republican Party ties, became part of the holdings of the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland.

His legacy survives in the numerous activities of Ohio APIC members who carry on the tradition of leadership in the organization.★

Please let me hear from you if you have any information on APIC Hall of Fame inductees you feel should be included in "Profiles in Deed." Email: jasalter@intrepid.net, or find my mailing address in the APIC directory.

For further information see:

Barkley, John, letter to Monroe D. Ray, dated, October 14, 1940, copy in APIC archives

Barkley, John, memo to Joseph Brown, (1972), copy in APIC archives

Barkley, John, letter to Monroe D Ray, dated March 30, 1945, copy in APIC archives

Brown, Joseph, "John W. Barkley APIC #2," The Keynoter, Winter 1986

Brown, Joseph, letter to the author, dated January 29, 2002, in APIC archives



A smiling John Barkley (APIC #2) sits next to an early American flag at the far right of this picture taken at the 1972 APIC national convention in Milwaukee. Sitting with Barkley (from left to right) are Gene McGreevey, Rev. Herb Loomis and Chick Harris. In 1950, Barkley was elected Mayor of the city of Shaker Heights, a prosperous suburb of Cleveland, Ohio.

Collecting History

Paster Ballots and The Kitchen Debate

by Robert Fratkan

One of the great thrills in my life was being asked by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. to write a chapter for *Running for President*, the two volume publication that he, Fred Israel and David Frent published in 1994. I felt it was a great honor to be included, since most of the other authors were well known historians and many were Pulitzer and Bancroft Prize winners.

I had spent most of my life studying twentieth century presidential history, which started at 1896 from my perspective, since that was a natural breaking point between the presidents of the nineteenth century and William McKinley, the first president to serve in the twentieth (not to mention the first year of celluloid buttons). The bad

news, however, was that I was assigned to write the chapter on 1892, an election that I did not collect and that I knew very little about.

By the time the chapter was written, I had learned a great deal about a frequently neglected election which, like 1992, pitted a Republican incumbent considered aloof and unpopular in his own party, a Democratic governor of his state who had been involved in a sexual indiscretion, and a strong populist third party candidate who was projected to take sizable votes from the major candidates and possibly throw the election decision to Congress. In my research, I learned that 1892 featured an election innovation called the "Australian Ballot." The Australian ballot was then used in only a few states but is standard in American elections today, only we now call it the secret ballot. Before 1892, voters openly cast different colored ballots, issued by the parties, in the ballot box, so observers could see for which party they had voted. 1892 was also the first election to use mechanical voting machines.

One of the other interesting aspects of the election of 1892 was the use of paster ballots, small pieces of glued paper that were distributed at polling places by party workers, designed to be pasted on ballots by illiterate voters in place of marking their choices. Immigration during the last half of the 1800s had dramatically increased the numbers of illiterate voters, and the use of paster ballots had grown apace in the Northeastern states, where most of these voters resided. I was very pleased several years later to find at an APIC show this 1892 Harrison ribbon, produced for use by paster ballot distributors.

In 1959, the United States put on an exhibition of American life in Moscow. Vice President Richard Nixon went to the Soviet Union to open the exhibit, escorting Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev through the room displays on July 24, 1959. The conversation became more contentious as they walked, comparing the life of the average American with that of a Soviet citizen. Relations between the two leaders became more heated in front of the kitchen model, which emphasized the energy saving devices used by the modern U.S. housewife. This heated exchange between the two world leaders was immediately characterized in the newspapers as "the kitchen debate," and was used in the 1960 election on posters and in ads to indicate Nixon's ability to stand up to the Soviets.

Unless you are a newspaper collector, there is only one collectable item from that event; the red/blue/black on white pinback lithograph button that was given out as a souvenir to the Russians who attended the exhibit. Although the button is only 7/8" it is blown up at the top of the next page in order to show the writing at the bottom more clearly. The event was referred to on later items as well, as with the 1960 postcard pictured on the next page.★



The ribbon pictured above from the 1892 election boosted voting for President Benjamin Harrison with the new fangled paster ballots.



This is an enlargement of the 7/8" pin given out at the 1959 exhibition where "the kitchen debate" between Richard Nixon and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev took place. To the right is a postcard from the 1960 election showing how Nixon could stand up to the Communists.



DICK NIXON — *The One Man to Deal With Khrushchev*

(Bryan/Murray—from page 14)

Since "Alfalfa Bill" Murray had been elected Speaker of the Oklahoma House in 1907 and was not a candidate for state office or Congress in 1908, it seems improbable that he was a coattail candidate. Pat Lenington has pointed out that Armantrout Brothers in Guthrie, Oklahoma made excellent political buttons, and most locals used this company. The fact that the St. Louis Button Company was chosen to make the Bryan-Murray jugate, also implies that Murray was not running as a coattail candidate in 1908.

Murray served as speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives for several years, and was elected to Congress in 1912 and 1914. In 1910 and again in 1918, he was defeated as a Democratic candidate for governor of Oklahoma. However, he was elected governor in 1930. In 1932, he was a presidential hopeful, running in some primaries but winning little support beyond Oklahoma's delegates at the national convention. Murray-for-President buttons from 1932 are not hard to find but buttons from his apparent 1908 Vice Presidential bid are extremely rare.

Although the press often ridiculed him, the rustic Murray appealed to the "common people" since he normally spoke like a rugged frontiersman and refused to wear formal clothing in Oklahoma. He usually was dressed in rumpled attire that was flecked with cigar ashes, and his white shirt generally was soiled. He rarely shaved more frequently than once a week. Murray invariably wore a hat, even at his desk, and his handlebar mustache was tobacco stained. Fearing that Murray might actually become the governor in 1930, an Oklahoma City newspaper assigned a female columnist the task of "exposing" Murray as one unsuited for high office. This lady wrote that "Alfalfa Bill" lived in a house with a sod roof and a dirt floor, had no indoor bathroom, and wore dirty underwear. Murray, who had his own paper, *The Blue Valley Farmer*, responded by asking the lady how she knew so much about his house and underwear. Of course, in 1930 few rural Oklahomans had indoor plumbing and many had been reared in sod houses, so the attempt at ridicule backfired. These country voters loved it and rallied behind Murray on Election Day.

Once in office, Murray was equally colorful. He often sat with his chair tilted back and with bare feet resting on his desk, ate his lunch from a paper sack and would roar, "What in the hell do you want?" when an unwanted visitor entered his office. In order to provide more food during the Depression, Murray had the lawn of the governor's mansion plowed and planted in potatoes (Hollon 1968:381-384).

The nickname "Alfalfa Bill" came from his advocacy of agricultural reform. When he ran for President in 1932, in the heart of the Great Depression, his slogan was "Bread, Butter, Bacon and Beans."

In spite of the opinion of many that Murray lacked social polish and was deficient in the education needed in the office of governor, he had a sound mind, political courage, and substantial ability as a party leader. He put the Oklahoma economy on a solid footing, reversed low crude oil prices, and promoted more equitable taxation in the state. Although he seemed to be crude, "Alfalfa Bill" was really quite shrewd. When he spoke before educated audiences in distant states, the Oklahoma governor would wear an immaculate suit and speak like a cultured gentleman. Then back in his home state he would berate millionaires and those who opposed him as "a pack of damn liars who oughta hafta work like you farmers and cowboys." The Tishomingo lawyer extolled himself as an authority on constitutional law, although he often ruled by executive order and ignored the legislative and judicial branches of government. Murray was a colorful political figure who deserves to be better known beyond the borders of Oklahoma.★

REFERENCES:

- The Daily Oklahoman (Sunday, March 6, 1938, page 10-D)
1938 W. H. Murray...*Candidate for Governor*.
- Dale, Edward E. and Gene Aldrich
1972 *History of Oklahoma, 3rd edition*. Thompson Book and Supply Co. Edmond.
- Foreman, Grant
1942 *A History of Oklahoma*. University of Oklahoma Press. Norman.
- Harlow, Victor E.
1955 *Oklahoma, Its Origins and Development*. Harlow Publishing Corporation Oklahoma City.
- Hollon, W. Eugene
1968 *The Southwest: Old and New*. The university of Nebraska Press. Lincoln.
- McReynolds, Edwin C
1954 *Oklahoma: A History of the Sooner State*. University of Oklahoma Press. Norman.
- Wright, Muriel H.
1955 *The History of Oklahoma*. Co-Operative Publishing Company. Guthrie. Collecting History

“Chinese Must Go!”

Social Attitudes in 19th Century Advertising Cards

by Stephen Baxley

We can learn a great deal about the social attitudes of people who lived a century ago through the memorabilia that we collect today. Nineteenth century advertising trade cards say a great deal about the social attitudes of people in that era.

For example, the political issue of Chinese immigration was a major issue in the 1870s and 1880s. An advertising trade card from the time shows Columbia pointing to the handwriting on the wall for the Chinese, “No more Chinese cheap labor. Celluloid Cuffs, Collars, & Bosoms.” John Chinaman holds down his head as Uncle Sam stands behind a counter that reads, “Gon Up Chinese Laundry.”

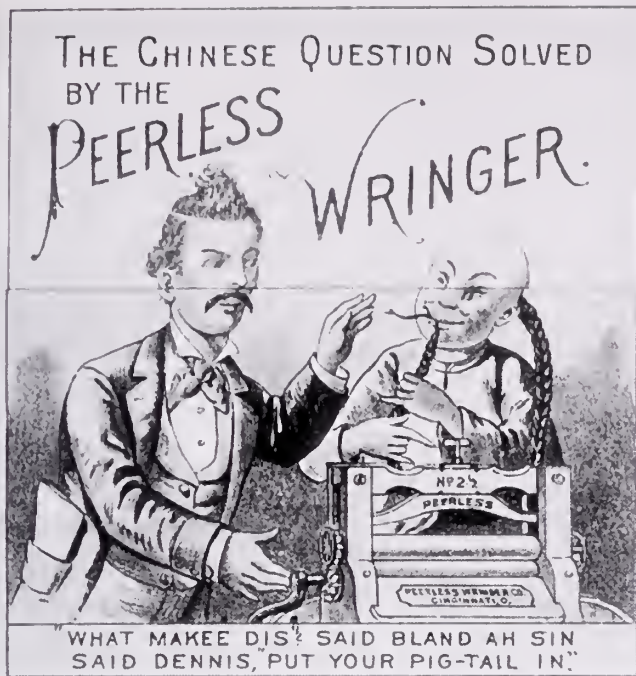
The slogan, “The Chinese Must Go” had been the cry of Dennis Kearney and the Workingmen’s Party of California in 1887. In July 1877, a protest meeting was called by the Workingmen’s Party of the United States, a group that had roots in the Marxian International Workingmen’s Association. [“Marxian” is an early version of the term “Marxist.”] The protesters moved into Chinatown where a three-day riot ensued, destroying more than \$20,000 in property. In September 1877, J. G. Day and Dennis Kearney called a meeting of the Workingmen’s Trade Labor Union of San Francisco. A week later, the Workingmen’s Party of California was formed. Kearney became the recognized leader of the party when his fiery speeches incited the crowd.

In July 1878, Kearney made a trip to Boston to visit Benjamin Butler, who was running for governor of Massachusetts. The Boston Litho Company issued some cards poking fun at Kearney. One questioned Kearney’s claim of not coming to Massachusetts to support Butler. Another shows him hugging a tramp that he says will be

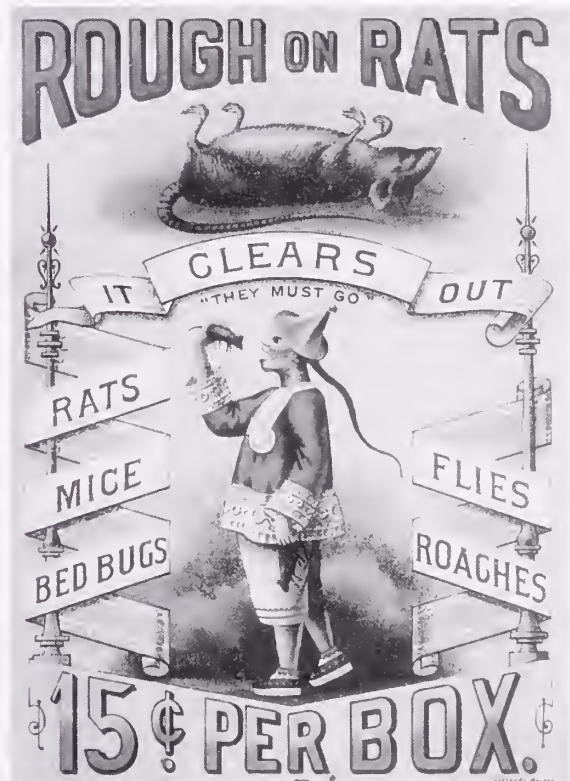
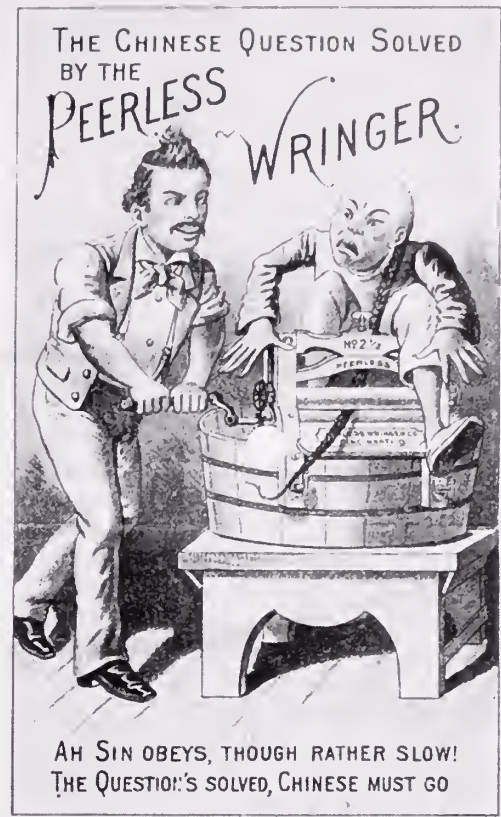


Above: Uncle Sam and Columbia agree “No more Chinese cheap labor” and suggest that wearing new-fangled celluloid cuffs and collars would reduce the need for Chinese laundrymen. The invention of celluloid also created the button craze. Below: Anti-Chinese labor leader Dennis Kearney traveled East to promote Ben Butler’s race for governor in Massachusetts.





Top: Fold-open novelty intended to entertain by showing Dennis Kearney torturing a Chinese worker with a new washing machine. This sort of brutal humor is still to be seen in the early silent comedies, which often consist mainly of elaborate ways to harm people.



One of the myths used to dehumanize Chinese Americans was the image that they were eaters of rats and dogs. The "Rough on Rats" card seems to promise that its product is more effective against rats than even a hungry Chinaman.

thrown into prison if he searches for an honest day's work.

An interesting metamorphic trade card shows a Chinese named Bland Ah Sin asking Dennis Kearney, "What makee Dis?" Rather than just reply "It's a Peerless Wringer," he replies, "Put your pigtail in." When you fold the card out, the Chinaman's pigtail is caught in the wringer. Kearney has solved the Chinese question: "The Chinaman Must Go." Anti-Chinese workers would have thought such a piece humorous. The latest technology, such as the Missouri Steam Washer, wasn't just a way to clean shirts; it was promoted as a way to send the Chinese back to China.

Advertisers in the 19th Century were shockingly open in appealing to the outright hostility toward Chinese Americans. One technique was to dehumanize the Chinese by accusing them of bizarre eating habits. A common theme is the claim that Chinese ate rats and dogs.

One card for Magnolia Hams shows former President U.S. Grant stopping off in China on his world tour. Offered a rat on a plate, Grant declines and displays a ham instead (a Magnolia Ham, of course). One card shows a Chinaman scared by a large dog lusting after the rat he holds in his right hand, "Oh! No! No! No Bitee Me. Me No Eattee, Bow Wow Pie," he says. Another card shows a Chinaman approaching a dog chained to a doghouse. He says, "Ha! Ha! John Chinaman Eattee Doggie." The bones around the dog seem to imply it was the other way around. A third card illustrating this topic shows a Chinaman and a dog viewing two rats in a cage. The caption repeats a common theme of the era: "Two minds with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one."

One of the most desirable trade cards is the Rough on Rats trade card that shows a Chinaman about to swallow a rat. The card promises that the Rough on Rats product will do a much better job of exterminating household pests.

Also pictured with this article is a cigar label showing an American mechanic laying the whip to Chinese immigrants. Again the theme insists, "Chinese must go!" Registration marks on this example indicate that it is an original used for printing copies.

Advertising trade cards reflect social attitudes that are seldom expressed in items used in a political campaign. It is surprising to 21st Century Americans to see these ideas expressed so freely. If these images had been offensive to most Americans, the advertisers would not have used them. Those little cards speak volumes about 19th century social attitudes.★



More on the "rat-eater" theme. Note how these images portray Chinese Americans as being on the same level as dogs (i.e. not really human).



Cause Item: "Ye Animals Friend"

by Steve Baxley

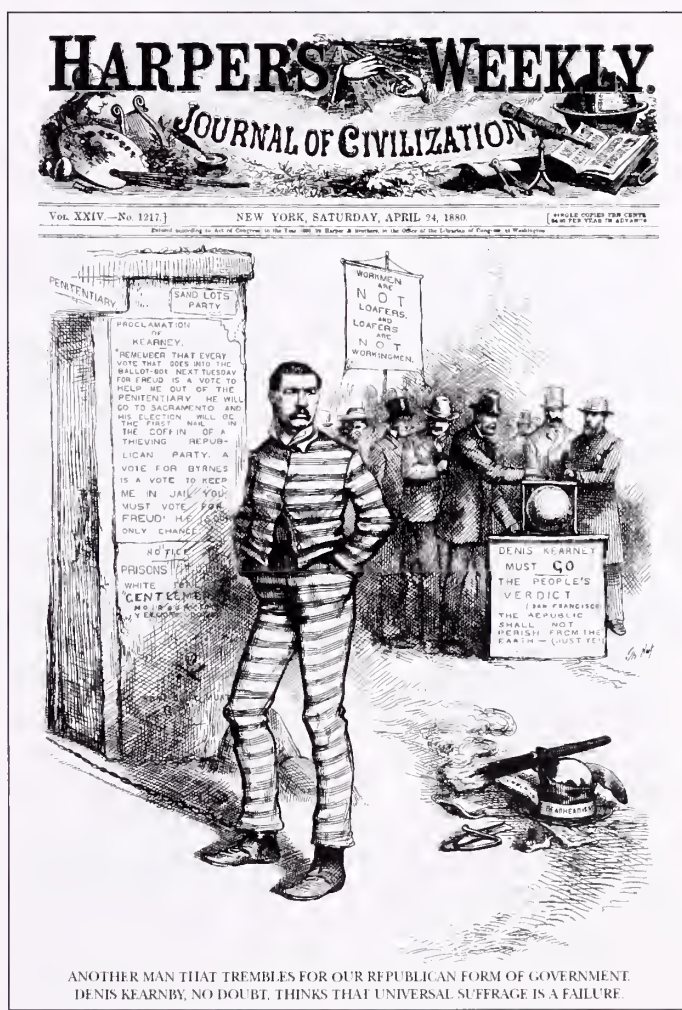
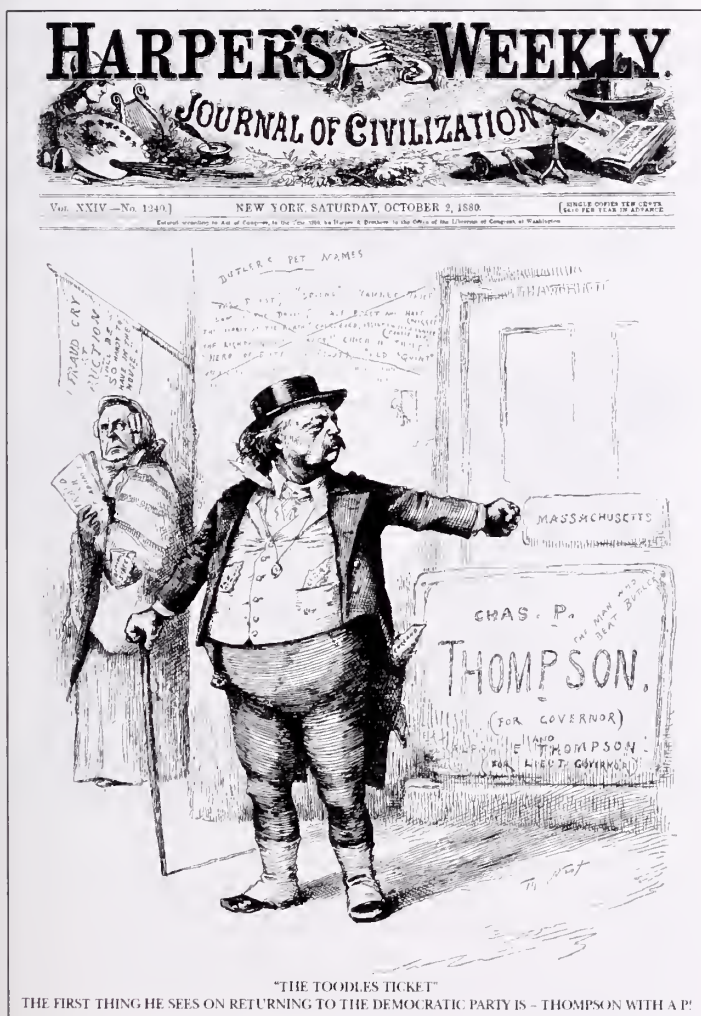
The struggle for animal rights is not a new one, nor is mockery from those who disagree with animal rights advocates. In 1866, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was chartered by the New York State legislature. Pictured here is a trade card showing Henry Bergh, its first president.

The trade card satirically shows Bergh using an umbrella to protect Barnum's elephant, Jumbo, from the falling rain. Bergh's first encounter with Barnum had been over Barnum's practice of feeding live rabbits to a boa constrictor at the second American Museum. Bergh called this "an atrocity" and "semi-barbarian." Barnum, drawing all the publicity he could out of the argument, replied that he would continue to feed his animals as nature intended. Barnum did move his snakes for feeding to nearby New Jersey, however.

Barnum and Bergh had their spats over the years, but later became friends. "We should remember that no man is perfect, and that, with all his faults and short-comings, Henry Bergh, President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is to be honored and respected for his unselfish devotion to such an excellent cause," Barnum said. Barnum helped formed the Bridgeport chapter of the Society and even became one of its vice presidents.★



Below: Two Harper's Weekly covers from 1880 by Thomas Nast. Left: Benjamin Butler runs for governor in Massachusetts. Right: California's Chinese-baiting labor leader Dennis Kearney. Clearly Thomas Nast dislikes both Butler and Kearney.



The Metal Roosevelt Clocks and Lamps, Part II: New Deal, NRA, and others

by Tom Tedford

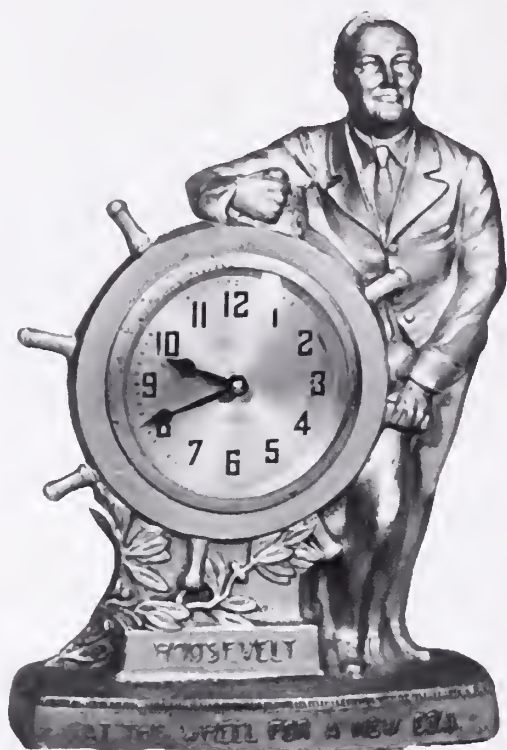


Figure 1. "At the Wheel for a New Deal."

In the first article in this two-part series on Roosevelt clocks and lamps we looked at the "FDR Man of the Hour" products of the United Electric Clock Corporation of Brooklyn, N. Y. In this second article we will examine the FDR, New Deal and National Recovery Administration (NRA) clocks and lamps of the Gibraltar Electric Clock Company of Jersey City, N.J., as well as some miscellaneous Roosevelt clocks of "uncertain origin."

Gibraltar clocks and lamps are easy to identify because the company molded its name on the back of the metal cases. As far as the author knows, all of Gibraltar's clocks are electric (no wind-up mechanicals), bear the name "Windsor" on the face of the clock, and are not self starting (a small wheel in the back must be twirled to get the electric movement going). The collector who finds a political clock by Gibraltar with a non-Windsor works can assume that, along the way, somebody replaced the original clock with that of another company.

Gibraltar Clocks and Lamps

"At the Wheel for a New Deal" (Fig. 1) is an attractive clock that features FDR leaning on the ship's wheel as he steers the country through the depression. Roosevelt's name appears beneath the clock and the motto "At the Wheel for a New Deal" is on the base. This is probably the most common of the Gibraltar political clocks.

"The Spirit of 1933" (Fig. 2) is an NRA series that comes in three versions. In all three, the NRA eagle is sitting on top of the clock and Roosevelt is standing to the side as he steers the Ship of State. In one version a banner between the eagle's wings displays the letters "NRA," and in a second version the banner displays the initials "FDR." The motto "The Spirit of 1933" is molded on the base of these two clocks. In the third version there is no banner between the eagle's wings and no motto on the base. (Figure 2 shows two of the three versions; the author does not own the clock with the "FDR" banner, although he has seen it on display.)

"We Do Our Part" and "Cooperation" (Fig. 3) are two Gibraltar clocks that are unusually rich in NRA symbolism. The first features an "all-American family" with the father and mother holding the NRA banner above the eagle's wings. The NRA motto "We Do Our Part" is on the base. The second clock features a farmer-worker scene with industrial smokestacks in the center. "Cooperation"—another motto of the NRA—is on the base, and "We Do Our Part" appears above the face of the clock.

The Gibraltar NRA lamps make an attractive matching pair (Fig. 4). Both feature Roosevelt at the ship's wheel with an NRA eagle in the center of the wheel. One has the letters "NRA" above the eagle's head and the motto "We Do Our Part" on the base. The other has no "NRA" letters above the head of the eagle and no motto on the base. As with the clocks made by Gibraltar, the company name is molded on the back of each lamp.

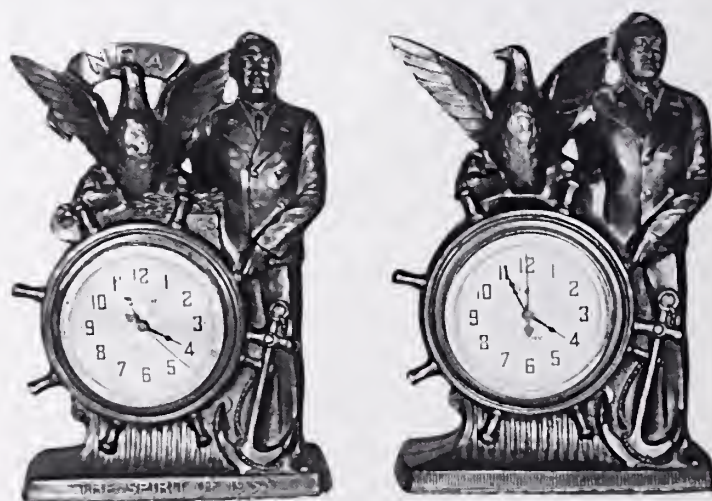


Figure 2. Gibraltar's "The Spirit of 1933" was made in three versions. On the left note the "NRA" on the banner between the eagle's wings. The version on the right has no banner and no motto on the base. A third version (not pictured) is similar to the first, except that it has "FDR" between the eagle's wings rather than "NRA."

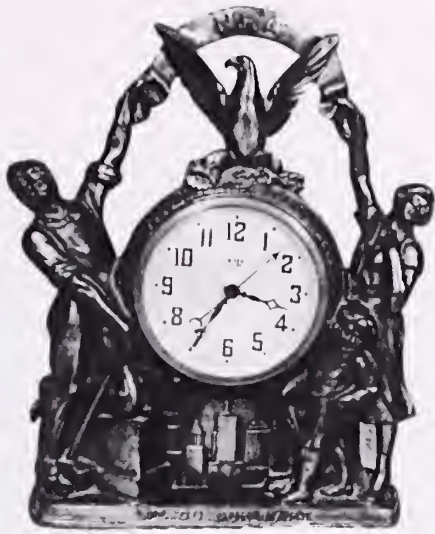
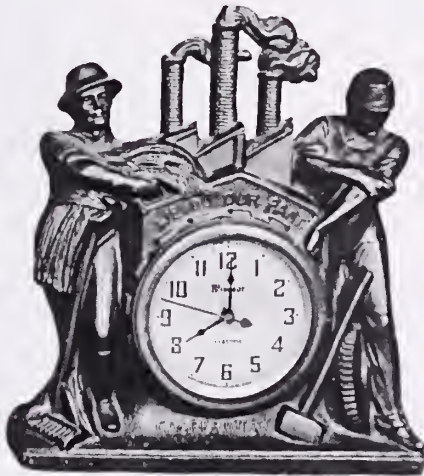


Figure 3. Two attractive NRA clocks.
“We do our Part” (above), and “Cooperation” (below).



Roosevelt Clocks of “Uncertain Origin”

Finally, we will look at some Roosevelt metal clocks whose manufacturer cannot be determined with certainty by the marks on the cases. Because most of those pictured here came with United Electric works in them, it is reasonable to assume that at least some of the clocks were made by United. Also, even though none of the clocks described below have the Gibraltar logo on the back, it remains a possibility that one or more was made by this company and not marked in the usual manner.

“Spirit of the U.S.A.” and “Steersmen of U.S.A.” (Fig. 5) make great displays for the political collector because both clocks feature Washington and Lincoln standing at the ship’s wheel with Roosevelt. “Spirit of the U.S.A.” is the larger of the two versions, being about fourteen inches tall. Here, Washington stands to FDR’s right and Lincoln is on the left. “Steersmen of U.S.A.” is about twelve inches tall, and has Lincoln on the right and Washington on the left.

There are two versions of “Our Uncle Sam” (Fig. 6), the one that is painted white with red, blue, and green trim, and the bronzed version. The “painted clock” (as it is often called) is the only factory-painted Roosevelt clock known to

the author. This impressive clock has a bust of Uncle Sam at the top with a profile of Roosevelt below. The sailboat next to FDR has “Roosevelt” molded on it. Above the clock is an NRA eagle with a “star of hope” above its head. Openings radiate from the star to allow the light from a small Christmas-tree size bulb in the back to shine through the eagle’s wings. The motto “Our Uncle Sam” is on the base. Both examples shown in the photograph were found with a United electric clock installed. Both versions are rare, the “painted clock” being the rarer of the two.

“The Spirit of the U.S.A.” (Fig. 7) is a fairly common NRA clock featuring a bust of FDR with small lights on either side of the bust. Beneath the clock are the profiles of General Hugh Johnson, head of the NRA, and Frances Perkins, FDR’s Secretary of Labor and the first female cabinet member in American history. Directly under the clock face is an NRA eagle. A less common version has the letters “NRA” under the eagle. The motto “The Spirit of the U.S.A.” is on the base of the clock.

“Prosperity Under the Blue Eagle” (Fig. 8) is a hard-to-find NRA clock with a large eagle on top. A figure of Roosevelt dressed as a farmer stands on one side of the clock, and a figure of Vice President John Nance Garner dressed as a working man stands on the opposite side. This item is often described as “the farmer clock” because of FDR’s “attire.” The motto “Prosperity Under the Blue Eagle” is on the base, and a small banner at Garner’s feet reads “A New Deal.” A rare “clockless” variation has a solid casting rather than a clock in the circle beneath the eagle. A profile bust of FDR is molded into the center of the casting, and the date “1933” appears above Roosevelt’s head. In effect, the change converts the piece from an NRA clock into an “NRA decoration.”

The author hopes that the information provided in this two-part series will be helpful to collectors of 3-D political Americana.★



Figure 4. The two versions of Gibraltar’s NRA lamps. The one on the left has the motto “We do our Part” on the base, whereas the one on the right has no motto.



Figure 5. Two versions of Roosevelt with Washington and Lincoln. On the left is "Spirit of the U.S.A." and on the right is "Steersmen of U.S.A." Neither clock is marked with the name of a manufacturer.



Figure 6. "Our Uncle Sam" in both the painted version and the bronzed version.



Figure 7. "The Spirit of the U.S.A."



Figure 8. "Prosperity Under the Blue Eagle."



APIC OFFICERS - President: Chris Hearn; **Vice Presidents:** Region #1 - Mark Evans, Region #2 - Lynn Christy, Region #3 - James J. Gifford, Region #4 - Thomas M. Kitchen, Region #5 - Larry Brokofsky, Region #6 - Cary Jung; Region #7 - Charlie Hertlein, **Secretary/Treasurer:** Joseph D. Hayes; **Board of Directors:** Bruce DeMay, Ray Farina, Dan Schofield, Peter Economou, Carl Krasik, Andy Link, Jonathan Binkley, Jack Dixey, Ronnie Lapinsky Sax, Mike McQuillen, Bob Atwater, Morry Greener, Bill Gnefkow, Pat Lennington, Trent LeDoux, Robert Banwart, Gary Cohen, David Wilson, Brian Krapf, Tom Peeling, David Quintin; **National Chapter Coordinator:** Rob Payne; **Senior Contributing Editor, APIC Keynoter:** Michael Kelly; **Past Presidents:** Neal Machander, Norman Loewenstern, Robert Fratkin, Larry Krug, U.I. "Chick" Harris, Geary Vlk

Membership Information: applications may be obtained by writing to the Secretary-Treasurer at: P.O. Box 1149, Cibola, TX 78108, Telephone: (210) 945-2811.

APIC NEWSLETTER AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Harvey Goldberg, Editor, P.O. Box 922, Clark, NJ 07066.

Which?

